



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 25 October 2012

**15555/03
EXT 1**

**PESC 753
COAFR 142
ACP 157
DEVGEN 155**

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

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Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.



ANNEX

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 12 December 2003
(OR. en)**

**15555/03
EXT 1 (25.10.2012)**

**PESC 753
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : Africa Working Group meeting at Director's level
on : 25 November 2003
in : Brussels

No. prev. doc. : 15107/03

Subject : Report

OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS:

EU-Africa Dialogue

- The Group welcomed the outcome of the Rome Ministerial Troika meeting and the streamlining of the dialogue as reflected in the Joint Communiqué of 10 November.
- The Group endorsed the follow-up to this Ministerial Troika, in particular the next Troika meeting at Official's level that will be extended to chefs de file and with the participation of experts. This meeting, scheduled to take place in the first quarter of 2004, should be well prepared and the agenda should focus on a few selected items. The incoming Presidency mentioned the possibility a Ministerial Troika meeting in the follow-up of the Official's meeting.
- Longer-term prospects for the dialogue were also discussed. Taking account of African wishes and positions, formats and levels of future meetings should consider with caution developments in Africa and the outcome of the above mentioned meetings.

EU-SADC dialogue

- The Group welcomed the outcome of the recent EU-SADC Joint Committee of Senior Officials meeting in Brussels and discussed various ways to enhance the effectiveness and improve the modalities of the dialogue.
- It was generally felt important to continue the discussion of the Zimbabwe question in a SADC context, although not exclusively.
- The Troika format was found to be the most useful way to carry the dialogue forward.
- Prospects for a full-fledged Ministerial meeting, tentatively scheduled for 21 October 2004 during the Netherlands Presidency, were discussed as well as possible alternatives.

Conflict prevention, management and resolution

- **Common Position** on Conflict prevention, management and resolution in Africa
 - = The Group reaffirmed the full validity of the existing Common Position, while underlining the usefulness of a review taking into account developments since its adoption.
 - = The Group expressed a general appreciation of the joint texts presented by the Presidency and the Commission. Delegations were invited to send drafting suggestions on specific aspects by Coreu. To this end, the deadline was extended by one week until the 4 December.
 - = The Group will revert to the matter at its next meeting in December.
- **Peace Facility:**
 - = In accordance with the mandate given by the Council in the Joint Statement (doc 14955/03), the Group discussed the political aspects of the establishment of the Facility, in particular the objectives and the decision-making process.
 - = There was general agreement that UN endorsement in its different formats should be pursued for African-led operations and that in order to have an effective instrument the decision making process within the EU and the co-ordination with the AU and sub-regional organisations has to be speedy and flexible.
 - = Several delegations pointed to the aspect of an effective coordination between the AU and sub-regional organisations.
 - = The Group will continue discussions at the next meeting in December.

Strengthening of coordination between EU and UN

- The Group endorsed the approach to strengthening EU-UN relations with a view to establish an efficient and effective triangle relationship with the AU.

- In full accordance with Council Conclusions of GAERC 29 September 2003 on the Joint Declaration of the UNSG and the EU Presidency of 24 September on Co-operation in Crisis Management, the Group will continue to follow, within an African context, the implementation of the Joint Declaration. The Group will act in close co-ordination with CONUN.
- With a view to increasing the effectiveness of peace-keeping operations in Africa, the complementary role of the three actors (UN, EU, AU) has to be examined. It was suggested that the upcoming peace-keeping mechanism to be prepared for the Sudan could serve as a concrete example.

Ethiopia - Eritrea

- The Group agreed to continue efforts for the appointment of a UN Special Envoy **NOT DECLASSIFIED**
- Further activities were endorsed, such as taking the occasion of a donor meeting on food security in Addis to convey a clear message on the EU position and the concern of the international community on the stalemate in the peace process. The possibility of a Ministerial Troika meeting with both countries, in conjunction with the Sudan Troika mission, will remain on the agenda.
- The Presidency will inform the Group by Coreu on further developments and discussion will continue at the next meeting in December.

North Uganda

- The Group agreed to include in the ToR for the démarche (ROM/1395/03) **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

Proposed démarche in Abuja on Charles Taylor.

- Delegations agreed to keep the ToR for the démarche as indicated in SEC 2567/03 COR 1 and HAG/0553/03 **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

OTHER POINTS

1. EU-Africa Dialogue

The Presidency recalled the outcome of the Ministerial Troika meeting in Rome of 10 November (Final Communiqué doc. 14681/03) and the adoption of Council conclusions at the GAERC on 11 November (doc. 14964/03).

The Group commended the Presidency/Troika on the efficient resumption of the dialogue and welcomed the streamlining of the dialogue structure and mechanism. It discussed future activities, in particular the follow-up during the next year. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

2. EU-SADC dialogue

Delegations in general agreed that the EU-SADC Joint Committee of Senior Officials meeting had been a useful opportunity to pursue the dialogue with and on Zimbabwe almost a year after the last EU-SADC Ministerial. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

On the themes for discussion at the next Ministerial, a number of subjects were flagged like Peace and Security, HIV/AIDS, regional integration and problems linked to access to water. Reflections on the themes will continue.

3. Conflict prevention, management and resolution

- **Common Position** on Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution in Africa:

The Presidency briefly presented the revised version of the Common Position. The update was taking into account recent developments in the African institutional framework, in the EU's Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Policy and in the EU-Africa dialogue. New elements emerging from the seminar organised by the Presidency in Rome had also been introduced. Delegations in general welcomed the new proposal. Specific drafting comments would be forwarded by coreu.

While underlining the usefulness of the Common Position, it was also realised that there was a need to work towards its implementation, making the various aspects of it more operational. To this end, it was suggested that rather than looking at direct causes of conflict, the attention should be directed more towards structural causes. More emphasis should be put on the prevention element. The EU should build on existing strategies and reference was made to the work undertaken during the Danish Presidency on Coherence and Consistency. The Common Position was seen as a policy framework that could serve to back the African institutions in their efforts. Coherence with other international institutions in post-conflict situations was also mentioned.

- **Peace Facility**

Following the Council decision on the establishment of the Peace Facility, the Group discussed the main political aspects for a rapid and flexible running of African peace-keeping operations. It was emphasised that the Council has to be involved in the different stages with the understanding that procedures have to be swift and adapted to the requirements for each operation. The same should be considered on the African side with respect to the mechanism and co-operation between the AU and the respective sub-regional organisations.

NOT DECLASSIFIED.

4. Strengthening of co-ordination between EU and UN

- The Group held a discussion on the Joint Declaration on UN-EU Co-operation in Crisis Management (the Joint Declaration), the concept of African peace-keeping and the possible ways in which the Peace Facility could implement those ideas. The EUSR for the Great Lakes discussed the notion of African peace-keeping. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

5. Ethiopia - Eritrea

The Presidency recalled recent developments, in particular that the Eritrean Ambassador to the AU has been called back from Addis and that the Eritrean FM is on a diplomatic tour in European capitals. He will also see the SG/HR Solana on 26 November.

The Netherlands informed that the appointment of a UN Special envoy was delayed, supposedly due to the current initiative of the African Union; **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

NOT DECLASSIFIED

A.O.B.

- **GLR - Group of Friends**

NOT DECLASSIFIED

- **Zimbabwe**

NOT DECLASSIFIED

- **South Africa**

NOT DECLASSIFIED

- **North Uganda**

NOT DECLASSIFIED

Proposed démarche in Abuja on Charles Taylor

- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**
